

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 15-24 are now pending, wherein claims 15-17 and 19-23 are amended and claim 24 is new.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 24, 2005.

Applicants also note with appreciation the indication of allowability of claim 21, subject to correction of two minor informalities. Claim 21 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Office Action, and accordingly it is respectfully submitted that this claim is now in allowable form.

Claims 15, 17, 19 and 21 are objected to for minor informalities. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. Applicants have amended these claims in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection and rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 15-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,014,304 to Burnus et al. ("Burnus"). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Burnus, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0043775 to Shirakawa et al. ("Shirakawa") and U.S. Patent No. 6,590,758 to Friede et al. ("Friede"). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Burnus and Shirakawa. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Burnus does not anticipate claim 15 because Burnus does not disclose blocking wakeup requests and canceling the blocking of wakeup requests in the manner recited in this claim.

Burnus discloses a method of controlling a plurality of mutually communicating actuators. When the temperature of one of the actuators exceeds a threshold value, a central control apparatus CCA delivers an inhibiting signal to each of the controllers E1 to E4¹. Burnus, however, is completely silent with respect to *wakeup requests*, and Burnus does not disclose that any of the actuators 1-4, or associated controllers E1-E4, provide *wakeup requests* to the network. Accordingly, the inhibiting signal of Burnus does not block wakeup requests. As such, Burnus does not disclose blocking of *wakeup requests* put onto

¹ Column 3, lines 20-24.

the network or canceling the blocking of *wakeup requests* in the manner recited in claim 15. Therefore, Burnus does not anticipate claim 15.

Claims 16-19, 22 and 23 are patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 15.

For at least those reasons stated above, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 15-19, 22 and 23 be withdrawn.

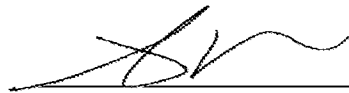
New claim 24 is patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection because this claim recites an element of claim 21 that was indicated as providing allowable subject matter to claim 21.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.55962US).

Respectfully submitted,

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